



If you see something, say something

Affective Atmospheres within the
Counter-Terror State

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Introduction

Urban securitization

- Implementation of military technologies
- Increased surveillance and control

Urban terrorism

- Soft-targets
- hard to secure

→ Counterterrorism measures

- Altering cities appearance
- Rendering everyday life: practices, emotions, atmospheres



Own image



Theory

Affective atmosphere (Anderson 2009)

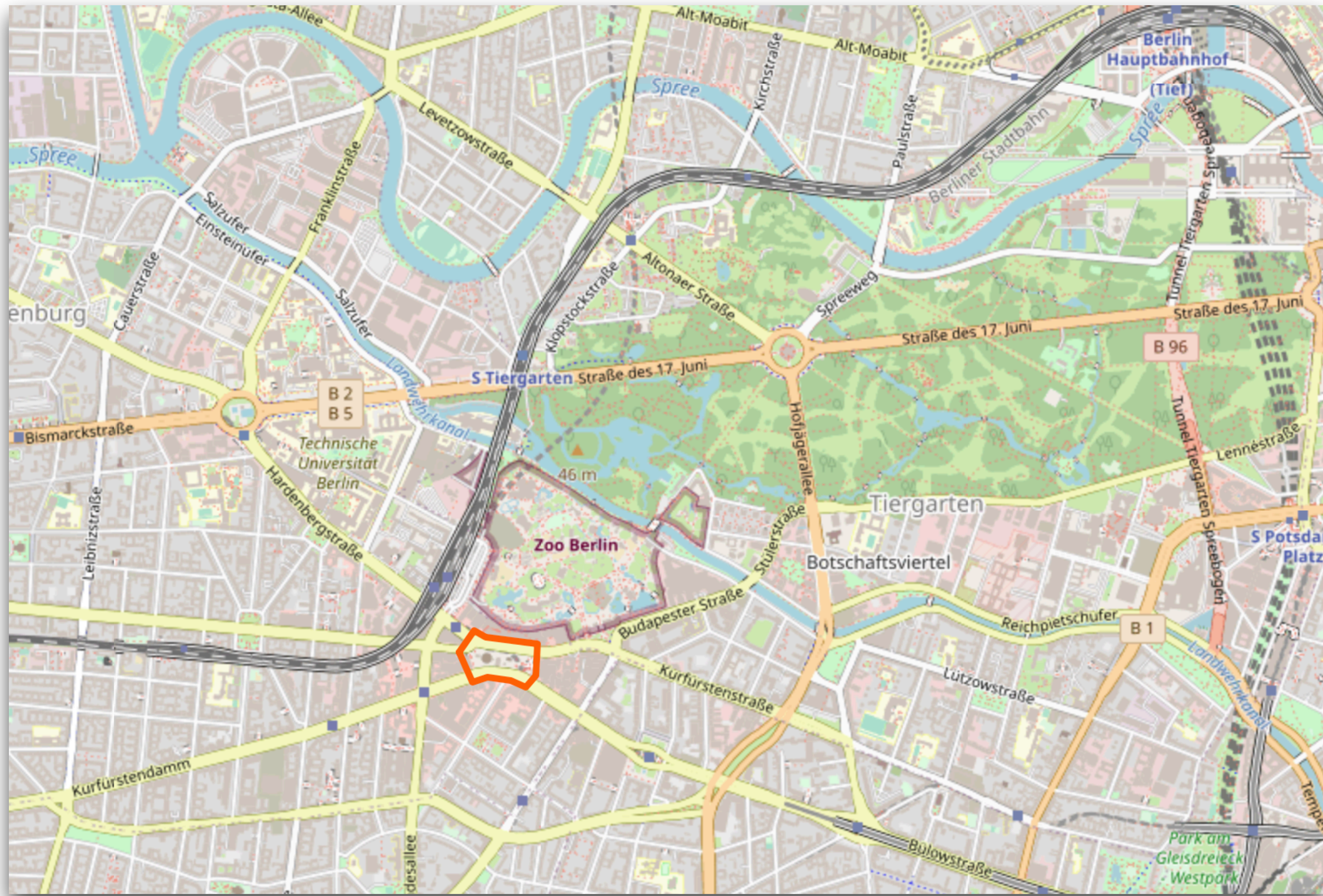
- Sensorial experience of space
- Lens to engage with everyday life
- Individual and collective feelings

Affective citizenship (Masco 2019)

- Affective politics of fear, threat and discomfort
- Producing citizens as security agents



Own image



Case Study

Breitscheid-Square Berlin

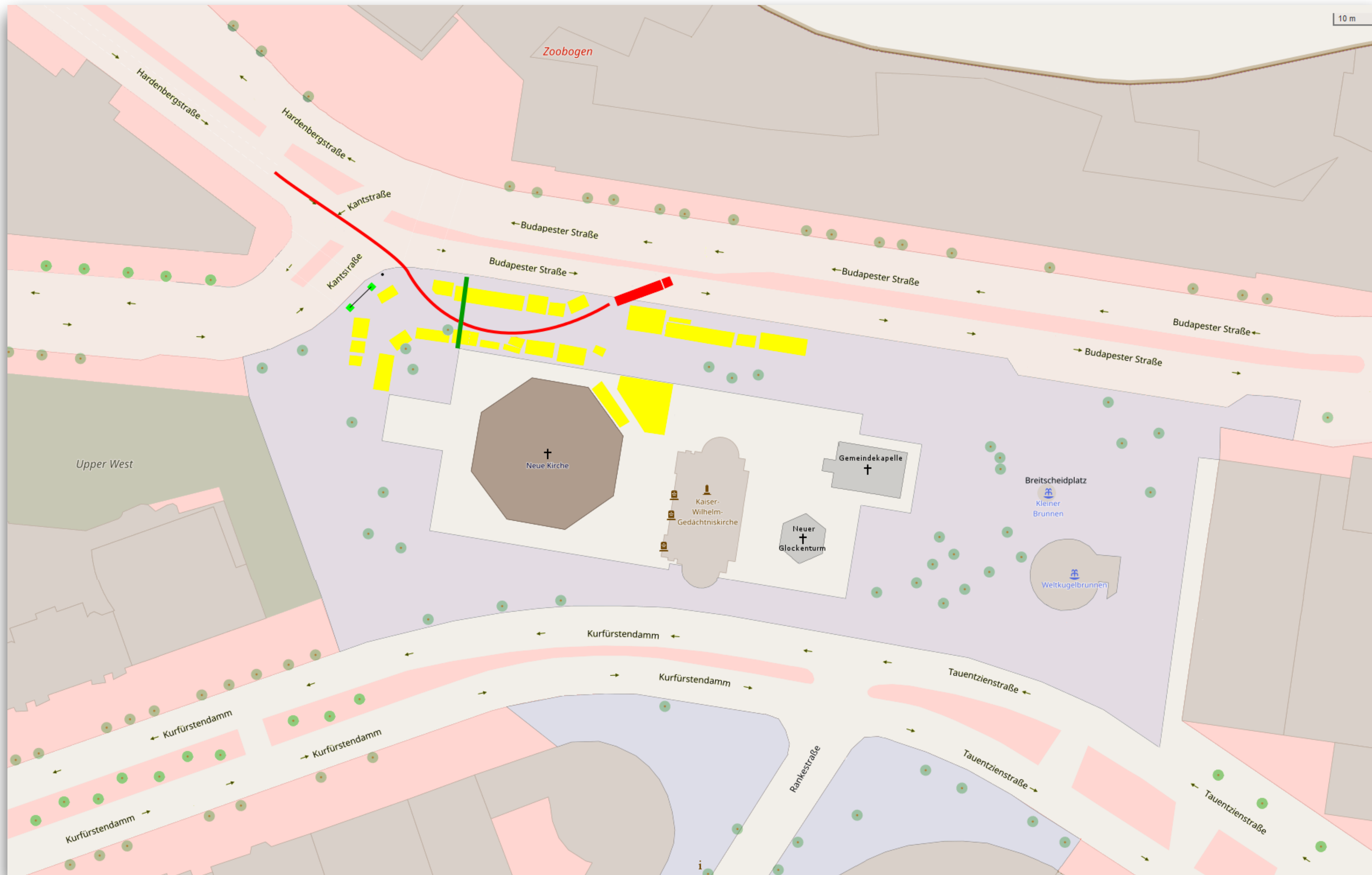
- Central location
- Touristic, crowded area

Christmas market attack 2016

- Most lethal and most mediated attack
- Similarities with other attacks in Europe at that time
- Massive spatial, legislative and atmospheric changes in the aftermath



Own image







JETZT IST LICHT
IM SCHACHT.
Kultur-
Ticket

VP

VP

VP

truckBloc

truckBloc

truckBloc

RITUALS...

FOSSIL

SALE



Wahnen

WALDORF ASTORIA

Analysis

Security infrastructure transforms space

- Material
- Usage
- Atmosphere

Atmo-techniques

- Actively alter emotions in urban spaces
- Threat and insecurity becomes ordinary



Own image

Conclusion

Counterterrorism

- Reaction to an allegedly increased insecurity
- Reproduction of threat and insecurity
- Strategy of legitimizing state security

Affective atmospheres of counterterrorism

- Politics operate on everyday emotions
- Creating vigilant citizens



Own image

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